

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD**

PETITION

I. PETITIONER INFORMATION

Name: Lycoming Creek Watershed Association

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South Williamsport, Pa 17702

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II. PETITIONER INFORMATION

A. The petitioner requests the Environmental Quality Board to:

Amend a regulation (Citation 25 Pa Code 93.9L)

Lycoming Creek in Tioga and Lycoming Counties is listed on Drainage List L (Section 93.91). Information in the "Zone" column shows that the main stem is a CWF from the source to the confluence with Long Run and from there it is a WWF to the mouth. See map in Appendix A.

Roaring Branch in Tioga County is listed on Drainage List L (Section 93.91). Information in the "Zone" column shows that the main stem is a HQ- CWF from the source to the confluence with Lycoming Creek. See map in Appendix A.

B. Why is the petitioner requesting this action from the Board?

The Lycoming Creek Watershed Association is petitioning the EQB to change the main stem of Lycoming Creek and the main stem of Roaring Branch designated uses because the streams actual existing use for aquatic life is greater than and requires more protection than is afforded by the current designated uses.

Several stream improvements as well as natural healing have resulted in improved water quality. These include the Roaring Branch Stabilization/Habitat project, Seelings Stabilization project, Red Run AMD Diversion Wells, CREP Projects and managed State Lands.

Lycoming Creek and its tributaries flow through DCNR lands including the DCNR McIntyre Wild Area as well as State Gamelands 113.

Of particular concern is the protection of the Eastern Hellbender, a large prehistoric-looking salamander whose existence may be a harbinger of the health of the Susquehanna River basin. The Lycoming Creek, with its clean flowing current and large boulders, is the home of a rare breeding population presently involved in vital original research. Additional research information on this species has been enclosed.

Our State initiative, Pennsylvania Wilds, has designated the Lycoming Creek as one of its major gateways. With its goals of encouraging the growth of outdoor and heritage tourism, it is imperative that this natural treasure be given the protection it deserves.

C. Describe the types of persons, businesses and organizations likely to be impacted by this proposal.

Williamsport Municipal Water Authority, Lycoming Creek Watershed Association, Lycoming Creek Anglers, Trout Unlimited, Township Supervisors, Trailer Park Owners, Campgrounds, Farmers, Local Businesses, Private Camps, Sportsman's Clubs, PADOT, and Local Government.

D. Does the action requested in the petition concern a matter currently in litigation?

No

E. For Stream Redesignation Petitions, the following information must be included for the petition to be considered complete. Attach supporting material as necessary.

1. A clear delineation of the watershed or stream segment, both in narrative form and on a map.

The section to be redesignated is the main stem of the Lycoming Creek from the headwaters to the mouth and the main stem of Roaring Branch headwaters to the confluence with Lycoming Creek. Roaring Branch has been included due to the fact that it supplies more flow than the section of Lycoming Creek above its confluence. See map in Appendix A.

2. The current designated use(s) of the watershed or segment.

The current designated use of Lycoming Creek source to Long Run is CWF, Long Run to the mouth is WWF, and Roaring Branch source to the mouth is HQ-CWF.

3. The requested designated use(s) of the watershed of segment.

The requested designated use of these segments of Lycoming Creek is High Quality and for Roaring Branch is Exceptional Value.

4. Available technical data on instream conditions for the following: water chemistry,

the aquatic community (benthic macroinvertebrates and/or fishes), or instream habitat. If such data are not included, provide a description of the data sources investigated.

- 1 DEP Lycoming Creek Investigation Report (August 1972)
- 2 PAF&BC Lycoming Creek Report (December 1981)
- 3 SUNY College Lycoming Creek Water Quality Report (1985)
- 4 DEP Lycoming Creek Investigation Report (June 1986)
- 5 DEP RBA Storett Data (1991-Current)
- 6 PAF&BC Aquatic Assessment Report (February 1992)
- 7 SRBC Data (1994-2007)
- 8 PAF&BC Aquatic Assessment Report (February 1996)
- 9 DEP Lycoming Creek Investigation Report (Summer 1997)
- 10 DEP Fish Data from Hoagland Run and Mill Creek (1998)
- 11 Lycoming College Lycoming Tributaries Assessment Report (July 2005)
- 12 Lycoming Creek Strategic Plan (April 2006)
- 13 Trout Unlimited- Technical Assistance Report (June 2007)

Lycoming College Clean Water Institute and Lycoming Creek Watershed Association data can be found at <http://www.pawatersheds.org/>

5. A description of existing and proposed point and non-point source discharges and their impact on water quality and/or the aquatic community. The names, locations, and permit numbers of point source discharges and a description of the types and locations of non-point source discharges should be listed.

Point Sources: Bittner's Trailer Court Sewage Treatment Plant at Trout Run and RT15/I 99 Stormwater Management.

Non Point: agricultural runoff, acid precipitation, stormwater runoff, erosion, sedimentation, faulty on-lot septic systems, urban runoff in lower section, flood plain development, acid mine drainage in Red Run, Dutchman's and Frozen Run and Acid Deposition.

Other Potential Threats: Oil and Gas Development, which includes the degradation of roads, tanker spill, frac/brine pits, contaminated wells and water withdrawals. RT 15/I 99 Development, which includes thermal pollution, tanker spills, increased erosion and sediment loss, impacts associated with straightening and removing wetlands of Steam Valley Run South, which is an HQ-CWF that supports wild trout production.

6. Information regarding any of the qualifiers for designation as High Quality waters (HQ) or Exceptional Value waters (EV) in 93.4B (relating to qualifying as High Quality or Exceptional Value waters) used a basis for the requested designation.

Numerous studies since 1972 have classified the Benthos in the main stem of Lycoming Creek as good to exceptional. The DEP Assessment data shows the main stem has a diverse benthological community dominated by sensitive taxa. See Attachment H

PAF&BC: Class A Designation (Grays Run, Hagermans Run, Hawk Run, Potash Hollow, Pleasant Stream)

McIntyre Natural Area has a unique geology and aesthetic value.

Based on a 2008 list from the PA Fish and Boat Commission there are 69 streams in the Lycoming Creek watershed that support a wild trout population. Wild trout from the tributaries can utilize habitat in the main stem. This provides an environment for exceptional fishing.

Lycoming Creek also provides exceptional recreational opportunities for swimming, tubing, canoeing and kayaking.

Lycoming Creek has exceptional ecological significance because it is one of only four streams in the West Branch watershed with breeding Eastern Hellbender populations.

7. A general description of land use and development patterns in the watershed. Examples include the amount or percentage of public lands (including ownership) and the amount or percentage of land use types (such as residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and the like).

Refer to Lycoming Creek Strategic Plan (Aug.2006)

New development in the area has been the Oil and Gas Developments and RT15/I 99 construction.

8. The names of all municipalities through which the watershed of segment flows, including an official contact name and address.

Lycoming Creek Township Map. Appendix E

Lycoming County Township Officials List. Appendix F

Tioga County:

Union Twp: Harry Jones, Twp. Supervisor (570)673-8287

Liberty Twp: Ernie Norman, Twp. Supervisor (570)324-2891

9. Location information relevant to items 4-8 (except for contact names and addresses) displayed on a map, if possible.

Refer to Lycoming Creek Strategic Plan (Aug.2006) Appendix H